higher secondary schools/colleges should be given due encouragements. The teachers so employed should be treated on par with other teachers possessing equivalent qualification of general educational set-up. In pursuance of this advice of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in many universities, colleges, schools, etc, traditional Sanskrit scholars have been employed. Traditional Sanskrit pandits are also invited to the seminars/workshops either organised/assisted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The vedic sammelan, the Sanskrit elocution contest and the other programmes of this nature are conducted in Sanskrit language.

Reported scandal in affiliation of B. Ed. College in Maharashtra

1704. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported scandal in the affiliation of a number of B.Ed. Colleges in Maharashtra without consulting the Marathwada University and admission of students against donations;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter to know the factual position; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Reports to that effect have appeared in the newspapers.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, permission for establishment of B.Ed. colleges was being granted from 1984-85 if the management did not seek any grants from the State Government. Nine applications were received during 1986-87. Of these, seven were recommended by the University to the State Government. In the remaining two cases, the State Government itself granted permission in terms of the provisions of Maharashtra Universities Act. Later, it came to the notice of the University, that most of the private colleges had admitted students excess of their sanctioned admission capacity and that two colleges were functioning without permission either from the State Government or from the University. The University, therefore, decided not to permit those students admitted in excess of the admission capacity and those from the unauthorised colleges, to sit in the March, 1987 examinations. When the University announced this decision, some of the affected students started agitations. Some managements also took the matter to the Bombay High Court. The High Court finally directed that the University should permit all the concerned students to appear in a special examination to be conducted some time in June, 1987.

According to the State Government of Maharashtra, in the light of these developments, the whole matter was reviewed and they have decided that from 1987-88, the practice of granting permission to managements who do not seek financial assistance from the Government, should be discontinued.

Colleges as Autonomous Institutions

1705. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to make a certain number of colleges in the country as Autonomous Institutions;

(b) If so, what are the basic objectives and criteria to identify colleges to be made autonomous; and